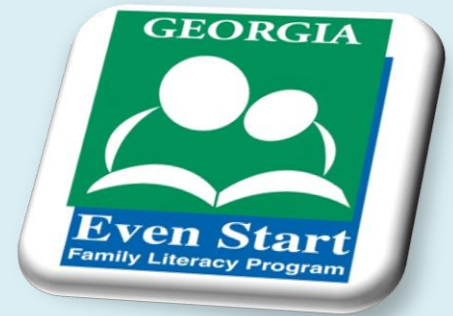


February 2011

Georgia's Even Start Family Literacy Program Has

NO FINDINGS Following Federal Monitoring Visit

Each State Educational Agency (SEA), as a condition of receiving funds under Title I, Part B, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001, provides an assurance to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) that it will administer the Even Start program in accordance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. Federal monitoring ensures that these assurances are being carried out.



The Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality (AITQ) Programs unit's monitoring plan has four major components: state data review, SEA self- assessment, desk review, and on -site monitoring. Each year ED selects a group of SEAs for formal on-site monitoring visits. Georgia was selected and received a four -day, on-site visit in November (2010). The monitoring visit was conducted by Melvin Graham and Tammi Fergusson from the Early Childhood and Reading Group of AITQ.

Monitoring reviews are organized around three areas: accountability, program improvement, and fiduciary responsibilities. The monitors review SEA records, interview SEA staff, and visit local Even Start programs. Two programs were selected by ED for site visits, Houston County's Perry Family Learning Center and Heart of Georgia Even Start in Eastman, under the direction of Traci Williams and Carla Jessup respectively. The monitoring team was able to see the four service components in action and interview local staff, participating parents, local administrators and partners.

After a careful examination of the responses to each compliance issue set forth in the monitoring report, the information provided was deemed appropriate and sufficient. Georgia completed the monitoring process with no findings and/or recommendations and was commended for its leadership and commitment to the pursuit of educational excellence.

The State Even Start Coordinator is Georgia E. Thomas, Quality Initiatives, Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning